

DEC. 12. 1997
DEAR SHIRLEY,

HERE ARE 2 NEW PAGES
37, 38, FOR BOOK QUES PART
3 AND ALSO 3 REPLACEMENT
PAGES FOR PART 3.

SINCERELY

Roger Kuhn

Name of Compiler ROGER REHM
Address 3901 LAKE RD. #184
City, State W. SACRAMENTO, CA.
Date SEP. 29, 1997

Ancestor Chart
Person No. 1 on this chart is the same
person as No. _____ on chart No. _____.

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p.b. ELINGTON, IOWA
d. JULY 6, 1914
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b. (Father of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

17 b. (Mother of No. 8,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

18 b. (Father of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

19 b. (Mother of No. 9,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

20 O. C. HOOPER

b. (Father of No. 10,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m. NOV. 10, 1820

d. MIDNIGHT 1879-80

21 MATHILDA MURDOCK

b. DEC. 18, 1802, JAMES CO. GEORGIA.

d. MAR. 11, 1898

22 CYRUS B. HULL

b. 1816 (Father of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m. AUG. 6, 1837, ILLINOIS

d.

23 NANCY SHINN

b. 1822, PIKE, ILLINOIS (Mother of No. 11,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

d. APR. 26, 1898

24 JOSE RICARDO de JESUS

b. OCT. 8, 1891 (Father of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m. S.F. PASADENA, CAL.

d. OCT. 18, 1900, WILLIAMS VALLEY -
MARIN CO.

25 MARIA CLARA de REFUGIO TALAMINI

b. AUG. 11, 1836, WASH. (Mother of No. 12,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

d. JULY 11, 1898, WILLIAMS VALLEY,

26 b. (Father of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

27 b. (Mother of No. 13,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

28 ORVILLE COLBURN

b. OCT. 8, 1813 (Father of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

m.

d.

29 MARIA HUBBELL

b. (Mother of No. 14,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

d.

30 PARLEY COLBURN

b. MAR. 10, 1827, N.Y. (Father of No. 15,
Cont. on chart No. _____)

RICHARD WILLIAM WILLIAMS

b. 1799 VICUERE, DEVON. ENGLAND.
M. JUNE 16, 1830. WITH S.F. de ASIS, CAL.
d. JUNE 29, 1832. BUR. WITH S.F. CLARK.

JUANA MARIA BOJORQUES

b. AUG. 16, 1804 S.F. PRETIOLO, CAL.
M.F.
d. APR. 29, 1872 NA. OLEMA, L.

GRANTEE: RANCHO LAGUNA
de SAN ANTONIO

BARTOLOME FRANCISCO BOJORQUES

b. AUG. 25, 1780, WITH S.F. CLARK, CAL.
M. NOV. 1803 " " " "
d. SEP. 4, 1865 CHILENO VALLEY, "

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b. SEP. 9, 1784, WITH S.F. CLARK, CAL.
d. APR. 20, 1869 CHILENO VALLEY, "

JUAN JOSE BOJORQUES
WAS THE FATHER OF
PEDRO ANTONIO BOJORQUES
ON HIS MILITARY RECOGNITION
HE COME, AND DID NOT COME TO
CALIF.

WIDOWER OF MARIA FRANCISCA
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b. 1754 VILLA de TINALOA, MEXICO
M. JULY 20, 1777, WITH S.F. de ASIS, CAL.
d. NOV. 3, 1815, SAN JOSE, CAL.

MARIA ANGELA de LA LUZ TREVO ✓

WIDOW OF DOMINGO ALVISO
b. c. 1742 SAN MIGUEL de MORCISTIAS,
MEXICO.
d. JAN. 3, 1803, MONTANEY PROSIDIO, CAL.

INDIAN JOSE ANTONIO YGNACIO LINARES

b. 1745 SAN MIGUEL de MORCISTIAS,
SONORA, MEX.
M.
d. JUNE 5, 1805, SAN JOSE, CAL.

MARIA GERTRUDIS RIVAS ✓

b. c. 1754, SAN MIGUEL de MORCISTIAS,
d. DEC. 7, 1813, SAN JOSE, CAL. MEX.

THE PTS. OF JOSE ANT. YGNACIO
LINARES WERE GREGORIO
LINARES AND MANUELA GONZALES
WHO DID NOT COME TO CALIF.

GRANTEE: ENTRA NAPA
+ CARNEKOS

HIGUERA

NICOLAS ANTONIO de la LUZ

b. c. 1781 LORETO PROSIDIO WITH
BAVA, CAL.
M. c. 1807
d. 1852 ON HIS RANCHO, NIPACO.

SALVADOR HIGUERA

b. LORETO, BAVA, CAL.

MARIA ORSULA LUJO

b. VILLA de TINALOA, MEX.

MARCEKITA RIOS

b. JUNE 1788, WITH SAN LUIS
de ISPA, CAL.
d. ?

JUAN JULIAN RIOS Y GARCIA

MARIA IRENEA INDIAN NEOPHYTE

PTS. OF
24

PTS. OF
25

PTS.
OF
25

Marin County Inquests. P. No. 124 Inquest on body of Juana Bojorques

(in the State Archives, Sacramento)

Pal D Doub Esc

San Rafael Cal

Filed June 7th 1872

Dut ? D. Donly Clerk

Olema Marin Co Cal

June 7th 1872

it is said better late than never, the was from want of knowledge of duties
of office of here ? please find results on inquest on body of Joanna Bojorges ex-
pecting to be more prompt in ? of office I remain

Yours ? ? ?

Sm O Crandell

We the undersigned jurors being summoned to inquire into the death of Johanna Bo-
jorques do find that she came to her death at house now occupied by Joseph Dolores on
the 23d day of April AD 1872 near the town of Olema County of Marin from ? inanim
in consequence of old age & general disability aged 70 years

P.J. Shafter Foreman, A.D. Adams, Geo Woodely, Fred W. Juan Garcia, J.M. Grey

Note: Jose Dolores was a grandson and is mentioned in the family group of Jose Sala-
zar and his wife Maria Antonia Arroyo-Bojorques, the daughter of Maria Juana
Bojorques. I do not know where she was buried. Before going on to her two ma-
rriages and what is known of the children I will continue with the descendants
of Maria Antonia her daughter of Jose Julian Arroyo.

Nov. 21, 1851 was the date of the transfer of the land of Rancho Laguna de San
Antonio. from Bartolome Francisco Bojorques to his children that Juana Bojorq-
ues had testified about in Gates vs..Salmon. Doc Shorb had paid the taxes on
the ranch for 1850-51 and got a mortgage on the ranch, \$450 dollars. Testimon
of Ai Barney, Gates vs. Salmon, Apr. 1861. Will give more detail on land ma-
tters in another section.

Abstract from the Assessment Book of Marin Co, 1853 by James Black. Copied by Mrs.
Helen Van Cleave Park. Book in the possession of the Marin Co. Hist. Soc. S. Rafael.

P. 200 Andrew Johnson - do not belong to me	one house on Juana Bojorques land
	150
	75
Asses and their value	225

Misc. data: Jose Salazar was at the S.F. presidio 1841-43 acc. to H.H. Bancroft. He
had also been at Sonoma along with Canuto Salzar who is unidentified and Fulgencio
Salazar who was probably Jose Fulgencio Salazar a son of Jose Miguel Salazar and Mari
Antonia de Gracia Bojorques of Bojorques Part I. Jose Salazar also had a claim again-
st the American Govt. stemming from the Mexican-American War. A half brother to his
children was Jose Dolores who gave testimony in the trial of Juan Salazar but I know
nothing more about him. (Daily Evening Post, May 31, 1877 said Juan Salazar was the
illegitimate son of Henry Howe and Mrs. Salazar both dead. His sister Maria Juana
denied having an English or American father at her brother's trial.)

JOSE SALAZAR, b. c. 1821, San Jose, Calif.? bap. record not found 6
Pts: Jose Miguel Salazar & wife Maria Antonia de Gracia Bojorques?
m. 31 Oct. 1847, Misn. S.F. de Asis, by Fr. Santillan to Maria Antonia
Bojorques

d. Alive in 1890 and 1896 at Marshall, a registered voter.

See p. 11

wife:

MARIA ANTONIA ARROYO BOJORQUES, b, 19 May 1828, San Jose, Calif. bap. 21 by Fr. Vander. Sponsors, Jose Maria Alviso & Juana Mesa.
Pts: Victor Jose Arroyo & Juana Maria Bojorques.
Father stated as unknown in the baptism, see p. 15

d. Smallpox epidemic of 1868 and may be buried by San Antonio Creek, on the south side towards the Chileno Valley crossroads after bodies could no longer be brought to Petaluma because of fear of contagion.

See 6a

Children:

MARIA ANTONIA de JESUS, b. 1848 1-? bap. #1661 Bk II, S.F. de Solano, Fr. Sonoma by Fr. Santillan, 4 mos. old. Sponsors: Jose de Jesus Berreyesa & Maria Antonia Garcia.
m. ALEXANDER MARTIN, 29 July 1867, St. Vincent de Paul's,
d. Before Aug. 13, 1884 when Alex Martin m. Maria Carrillo dau. of Julio Maria Carrillo & Adelena West. Wits: Ignacio Bojorques & Leonicia Bojorques.

MARIA BERNARDA, bap. Misn. S.F. de Solano 6-?-1850 Data from Mrs. C.B. Martinelli
d. Before the 1860 census.

MIGUEL, b. c. 1852 Could be the same who worked at San Quentin Prison
m.
d.

JUAN, b. c. 1854
single
d. 31 May 1872, 1:22 p.m. County Courthouse, San Rafael, Marin Co. Hung.
bur. Cypress Hill, Petaluma

JOSE ALBINO, b. 2 Feb. 1856, bap. 7 Apr. by Rev. Joseph Sadoc Allemany, Misn. San Rafael. Sponsors: Pedro Bojorques & Maria Ambrosia Higuera (aunt)
There is a biography about Joseph Sadoc Allemany who was from Catalonia, Spain and who became a bishop in Calif. Allemany Blvd. in S.F. is named after him.
d. before the census of 1860.

MARIA JUANA, b. 27 Aug. 1857, bap. 13 Sep. St. Vincent de Paul's, Petaluma by Rev. L. Auger. Sponsors: Pedro Bojorques & Mary (Maria Anna Bojorques, dau. of Pedro Bojorques.
m. PAULO MURZI, 29 Sep. 1877, civil ceremony, Petaluma
d. 19 Aug. 1938, San Francisco, bur. Italian Cemetery, Colma, San Mateo Co.

EMMA, same as ENCARNACION ? b. After 1860, not in that census

m. 1. ADOPH ARNESTO, 16 Oct. 1878

m. 2, WILLIAM WESCOTT

d. 8 Apr. 1909, Fisherman's now Marconi, Tamales Bay. Shot by 2nd husband.

I do not know if there were other children. All the above were evidently born at Chileno Valley, Rancho Laguna de San Antonio. I do not know where the Salazars lived in the valley.

1860 Census Marin Co. San Antonio Township 27 (family visited) 26 (household)
 Salazar, Hose 40 m Farmer \$100.00 (value of real estate) b. Cal.
 Mary Antonia 30 f Housewife can't read or write b. "
 Mary A. 10 f b. " (Page 7)
 Magill (Miguel) 8 m b. "
 Juan 6 m b. "
 Juana (Juana) 4 f (in 1870 with Jose Williams & family b. "

Maria Antonia gave her maiden name as Arroyo when she baptized Jose Alvino and Maria Juana. She was herself baptized as a Bojorques.

Land Case 121 ND Bolsa de Tomales - Aug. 9, 1860 for claimant Juan Padilla

Questions by Counsel for the Claimant

My name is Jose Salazar, my age is about 37, and I reside on Rancho Laguna de San Antonio.

I know Juan N. Padilla, I know the rancho Bolsa de Tomales, the boundaries are the Vioget rancho, the Estuary of Tomales, and Laguna de San Antonio. Padilla occupied the rancho Bolsa de Tomales before the Americans came. He has a little house there made of upright sticks with a thatched roof, it was built at the Paso de Cascano on the Bolsa de Tomales rancho. It was towards the sea from the Dos Piedras. There was a little cultivation around the house. He went there about two years before the Americans came. He was a single man, but had an illegitimate son about two years old.

With Nicolas Frias Padilla's major Domo, I sometimes went to the Tomales rancho with him to assist him

I heard of a difficulty between Juan Bojorques and Padilla, before the Alcalde Marcus Baca. I hear the Alcalde had put Bojorques in confinement, but that he had escaped through a window.

Cross Examination.

Question by counsel for the U.S.

The piece of cultivation around the house on the Bolsa de Tomales ~~was about~~ perhaps about the size of this house. I never was close to it, there was a little brush fence around it, it was cultivated for about two years. Jose x Salazar
mark

Sworn and subscribed this day of August 1860, before me W.C. Chevers. U.S. Com:

Notes: Juan Padilla came to Calif. with the Hajar-Padres colony from Mexico in 1834 and he was also grantee of Roblar de la Miseria (Oaks of Miseria) on the north boundary of Rancho Laguna de San Antonio. Roblar de la Miseria got its name from Spanish soldiers who camped there during miserable weather and some old oaks still dot the plain west of Meachem Hill. Bolsa de Tomales refers to Tamil (Miwok) Indians who lived around a widening of Stemple Creek (which reaches the Pacific Ocean as the Estero de San Antonio) later called Burbank Lake after an older brother of Luther Burbank of Santa Rosa who settled here and whose large wood frame house still stands on the slope above the creek. The dispute between Juan Padilla and Juan Bojorques occurred because both had applied for the Bolsa de Tomales area as a land grant.

I think the McDowell ranch is where Juan Padilla had his palizada and fence as it fits the site on a plat of Bolsa de Tomales in the volume Calif. Land Claims, p. 68, map 32, when compared with modern maps. This volume dates from the 1860's and is in the Calif. Room of the State Library, Sacramento.

Great Register, Marin Co. 1866-1878

July 19, 1866

Bojorques, Peter 153
 Bojorques, Rafael 164
 Bojorques, Sebastian 159

Basques, Tiburcio, 31. b. Calif, res. San Antonio, farmer (actually the famous bandit)
 1336 Salazar, Joseph, age 48, b. Calif. laborer res. San Antonio

Dear Shirley,

Jan. 31. 1998

Enclosed is a copy of an addition to the
photo section of the 6 volumes research
Hope you are well. The chart is for
Part 3

Sincerely

Roger Nelson

Francisco Williams & wife Elizabeth Scheranos Williams. His parents were Jose and Jesus Williams and wife Maria Clara del Refugio Talamantes. Her parents are unknown

Photo from their descendant Mrs. Claudia M. Pedrotti Nelson



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(Father of No. 3)

b. OCT. 20, 1878

p.b. TOMILES, CAL.

m.

d. 1924

p.d. NAPA, CAL.

3 LENNETTE M. WILLIAMS

(Mother of No. 1)

b. JULY 19, 1912

p.b. PETALUMA, CA.

d. APR. 20, 1992

p.d. TRINIDAD, BVA. FORTUNA, CAL.

7 EDNA A. COLBURN

(Mother of No. 3)

b. OCT. 29, 1888

p.b. BLOOMFIELD, CA.

d. MAR. 27, 1961, FORTUNA, CAL.

p.d. BVA. PETALUMA, CAL.

ROBERT L. NELSON

(Spouse of No. 1)

b. APR. 4, 1929

d.

p.b. HITFIELD, ARK.

p.d.

8 JOSEPH PEDROTTI

(Father of No. 4)

b.

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

SWITZERLAND

BVA. GIUMAGLIA,
SWITZERLAND9 MARIA CERENI-PEDROTTI

(Mother of No. 4)

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

BVA. GIUMAGLIA, SWIT.

10 WILLIAM HOOPER

(Father of No. 5)

b.

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

11 MARY JANE HULL

(Mother of No. 5)

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

1845

12 FRANCISCO WILLIAMS

(Father of No. 6)

b. c. 1857

p.b.

m.

d.

p.d.

13 ELIZABETH SOBERANES

(Mother of No. 6)

b.

p.b.

d.

p.d.

14 BREWER COLBURN

(Father of No. 7)

b. OCT. 15, 1842

p.b. MINERAL, ILLINOIS

m. APR. 18, 1874

d. JULY 5, 1917

p.d. BLOOMFIELD, CAL.

15 MARYETTA ARYLIA COLBURN

(Mother of No. 7)

b. JAN. 8, 1857

p.b. ELLINGTON, IOWA

d. JULY 6, 1914

p.d. PETALUMA, CAL.

16
 b. (Father of No. 8,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 m.
 d.

17
 b. (Mother of No. 8,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 d.

18
 b. (Father of No. 9,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 m.
 d.

19
 b. (Mother of No. 9,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 d.

20 O. C. HOOPER
 b. (Father of No. 10,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 m. NOV. 10, 1820

21 MATHILDA MURDOCH
 b. DEC. 18, 1802, JAMES CO. GEORGIA.
 d. MAR. 11, 1898
 (Mother of No. 10,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)

22 CYRUS B. HULL
 b. 1816 (Father of No. 11,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 m. AUG. 6, 1837, ILLINOIS

23 NANCY SHINN
 b. 1822, PIKE, ILLINOIS
 d. APR. 26, 1898
 (Mother of No. 11,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)

24 JOSE RICARDO DE JESUS
 b. OCT. 8, 1831 (Father of No. 12,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 m. S.F. PATRISTIO, CAL.

25 MARIA CLARA DE REEDING TALAMONT
 b. AUG. 11, 1836, WASH. STA. CLARA, CAL.
 d. JULY 11, 1898, WILLIAMS VALLEY,
 (Mother of No. 12,
 Cont. on chart No. _____)

26
 b. (Father of No. 13,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 m.

27
 b. (Mother of No. 13,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 d.

28 ORVILLE COLBURN
 b. OCT. 8, 1813 (Father of No. 14,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 m.

29 MARIA HUBBELL
 b. (Mother of No. 14,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 d.

30 PARLEY COLBURN
 b. MAR. 10, 1827, N.Y. (Father of No. 15,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 m. AUG. 28, 1853, TOMILES, CAL.

31 OLIVE E. ODELL
 b. SEP. 23, 1874, N.Y. (Mother of No. 15,
 Cont. on chart No. _____
 d. APR. 15, 1915, BLOOMFIELD, CAL.

JUAN JOSE BOJORQUES
WAS THE FATHER OF
PEDRO ANTONIO BOJORQUES
ON HIS MILITARY RECORDMENT
HECORN, AND DID NOT COME TO
CALIF.

PTS. OF
24
RICHARD WILLIAM WILLIAMS
b. 1799 VICUERE, DEVON, ENGLAND.
M. JUNE 16, 1830, WITH S.F. de ASIS, CAL.
d. JUNE 29, 1832. BUR. WITH S.F. CLARK.
JULIA MARIA BOJORQUES
b. AUG. 16, 1804 S.F. PRESTON, CAL.
M.I.
d. APR. 23, 1872 NA. GLENN, CAL.

GRANTEE: RANCHO LAGUNA
DE SAN ANTONIO
BARTOLOME FRANCISCO BOJORQUES
b. AUG. 25, 1780, WITH S.F. CLARK, CAL.
M. NOV. 1803 " " "
d. SEP. 4, 1863 CHILENO VALLEY, "
MARIA NICOLASA LINARES
b. SEP. 9, 1784, WITH S.F. CLARK, CAL.
d. APR. 20, 1869 CHILENO VALLEY, "

WIDOWER OF MARIA FRANCISCA
de LARA
PEDRO ANTONIO BOJORQUES ✓
b. 1754 VILLA de TINJON, MEXICO
M. JULY 20, 1777, WITH S.F. de ASIS, CAL.
d. NOV. 3, 1815, SAN JOSE, CAL.
MARIA ANGELA de LA LUZ TRUO ✓
WIDOW OF DOMINGO ALVISO
b. c. 1742 SAN MIGUEL de NOCACITAS,
MEXICO.
d. JAN. 3, 1803. MONTAGUE PRESTON, CAL.
INDIAN
JOSE ANTONIO YGNACIO LINARES
b. 1745 SAN MIGUEL de NOCACITAS,
SONORA, MEX.
d. JUNE 5, 1805, SAN JOSE, CAL.
MARIA GERTRUDIS RIVAT ✓
b. c. 1754, SAN MIGUEL de NOCACITAS,
MEX.
d. DEC. 3, 1813, SAN JOSE, CAL.

PTS. OF
25

GRANTEE: ENTRA NANA
+ CARREROS
HIGUERA
NICOLAS ANTONIO de la LUZ
b. c. 1781 LORETO PRESTON, WITH
M. c. 1807 S.F. CAL.
d. 1852 ON HIS RANCHO, NAPA CO. CAL.
MARGARITA RIOS
b. JUNE 1788, WITH SAN LUIS
d. ? OBISPO, CAL.

SALVADOR HIGUERA
b. LORETO, BAVA, CAL.
MARIA ORSOLA LUGO
b. VILLA de TINJON, MEX.

JUAN JULIAN RIOS Y GARCIA
MARIA IRENEA INDIAN NEOPHYTE

THE PTS. OF JOSE ANTONIO YGNACIO
LINARES WERE GREGORIO
LINARES AND MANUELA GONZALES
WHO DID NOT COME TO CALIF.

Tuesday, September 23, 1997

Bill Soberanes



Today's specials

Petaluma sea captain Ben Moore has just retired. Captain Moore spent 51 years at sea, and I'm sure that's a record for a Petaluma sailor. Captain Moore has probably made more trips around the world than any Petaluman, and he's seen mysterious seaports turn into tourist attractions ... Petaluman Lynn Williams is the only localite I know who owned a Rockney automobile. It was a 1930 model ... The Petaluma branch of the Worldwide Merchant Marine Association is making plans to have sea historians speak to them, and the members will compare their own stories with the historians ... Speaking of sea historians, Jay Gould of Petaluma is one, and he also spent a lot of time at sea ... The only native Petaluman to become the president of a Woman's Club in another city is Peggy Tynen. The town, Santa Cruz.

California history

Dal Empan, a grandson of General Vallejo, was my cousin and from him I learned a lot about the early California history of this area. I even learned about the Soberanes' land grants. If the families had held on to them I'd be a rich man. I have much unpublished history that was given to me by Dal. Some of it concerns the Bale Mill in St. Helena and other stories Dal picked up in his youth.

I have a Soberanes family genealogy full of names of early Californians many of whom are related to the Soberanes family.

I'm also checking into the connection of one of the family members to California's early bandit Joaquin Murrieta who was also known as the Robin Hood of California.

Another Petaluma family whose ancestry goes back to the early days of California are the Talamantes.

Bill Bojorques, who lived in Petaluma in bygone years, was also a descendant of an early California family.

One of the stories that has intrigued me came from Carlos Bojorques and Henry Howe, both of whom were descendants of early California families. The story concerned what Bojorques and Howe claimed was an early day hidden treasure in this area. Bojorques and Howe had a treasure map, but they never found the treasure that they thought was somewhere between Petaluma and Chileno Valley. I don't know what became of the map they had, but I'm searching for it. I do know that Bojorques kept a scrapbook on early California that contained much of the history of his ancestors.

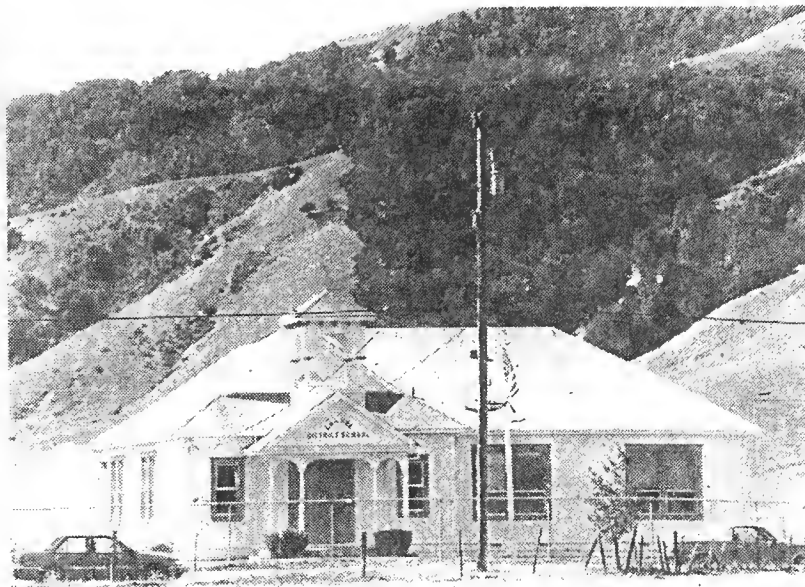
Both Bojorques and Howe were adventurers and magnificent yarn spinners, and both had contacts with early Californians. One of the people who had a close contact with Bojorques was the late Phil Talamantes.

I'm still searching out early California. My father's father translated a lot of it from Spanish to English, and his translations are in the Bancroft Library.

CLASS ACT

Big lessons at tiny school

Academics and friendships flourish at Laguna School



By CYNTHIA DYER-BENNET

Argus-Courier Staff

Outside, a doe hesitates then skitters nervously across the road. A great blue heron stands on inverted-V legs, scanning the terrain for a tasty reptilian snack while cattle graze on distant hilltops.

Inside, children in the schoolhouse group in twos and threes, older kids reading to younger ones who nestle into the crook of an arm or available lap.

It's an idyllic scene out of another century, when one-room schoolhouses were the norm in a rural setting. But these events take place today on a daily basis at Laguna Elementary School.

Laguna, built in 1906, is not really a one-room schoolhouse anymore. It had one wall knocked out and a second classroom affixed to the original one some years ago.

But there is no wall between the classrooms. A cloth curtain can be drawn to separate the older kids from the younger

Rolling hills surround the historic Laguna School, where 21 students are enrolled in kindergarten through sixth-grade.

ones, but there is seldom a need for it.

Upper-grade kids get a lesson on the human skeleton in one room while primary-grade kids quietly work on math problems in the other. The kids know what they're supposed to be studying, and they do it with little need for shushing or nagging.

Everybody attributes this to the amazingly small enrollment of 21 students. They get more one-on-one attention from adults in a day than the average kid gets in a week at a school with 400 to 500 students.

"We do a lot of individualized lesson plans because we have so few children in each grade," says teacher Susan Bloom, who teaches the four first-graders, two second-graders and one third-grader enrolled in the school.

Bloom has been with the school since 1976. She started as a teacher's aide, despite the fact that she had a teacher's credential, because she liked the school so much. She remained as an aide for 13 years until a teaching position opened up.

She works a half-time position, starting at 10:30 a.m. and

finishing when her students go home at 2:30. She shares primary-grade duties with half-time teacher Pam Brambila, who works with kindergarten through second-graders. Brambila begins her shift at 8 a.m. and finishes when kindergarten is over at 12:15 p.m.

Lynda Balzan is a newcomer to Laguna. This is her first year as the school's full-time instructor and principal. She teaches the fourth- through sixth-graders.

Brambila is in her second year there. Previously she worked at a school in Walnut Creek with an enrollment nearing 500 kids.

"It's just as much work as having a large class," she says, "but here

I get a lot closer to my students and they get a lot of TLC."

Maria Ortega, 22, provides some of that TLC. A native of Mexico who came to the states when she was 4, Ortega was a student at Laguna Elementary. Bloom was her teacher.

She graduated from Petaluma High in 1993, and briefly explored a career in medicine until she discovered she couldn't draw blood without fainting. When she took a volunteer job as a bilingual translator at Laguna, she realized how much she loved being around kids.

"My day goes by so fast here," she says of the volunteer work that turned into a full-time job as

secretary. "I used to be known for having a bad temper and no patience with kids, but here is where I've found my patience. And my temper? I don't know where it is."

Though the school does have a selection of age-appropriate books for its students, it is not large enough for a full-scale library, so the Wednesday arrival of the bookmobile provides a welcome opportunity to intro-

duce the children to a broader range of reading material.

Jacky Ford, the Marin County Free Library bookmobilitist, greets Maria Romo, 8, by name as she enter the vehicle. Ford has been driving the bookmobile to Laguna for nine years, so she has developed a friendship with the kids there.

She even comes into the school for storytime. The children sit quietly on the floor. Their eyes are riveted to the large color illustrations in the book Ford reads them. They don't fidget. They don't interrupt.

"I find them to be calmer, more polite than kids in schools with a big enrollment. They still have that youthful exuberance, but they get so much individual attention..." says Ford, reiterating the refrain that is inevitable in a school with a student/adult ratio of approximately five to one.

The exuberance and openness of these children is plain. Jake Lanatti, 6½, marches up and announces out of the blue, "I'm in the first grade and I work very hard at math and stuff. I like math. Oh, and we learned about mammals. Mammals don't wear feathers, they wear hair and fur."

Jake's 5-year-old sister, Jennifer, bumps up against him, and they grin at each other. Erich Schottstaedt, 7, wants to discuss the book on wild dogs he got from the bookmobile. Jonathan Medeiros, 10, offers to help a second-grader with a math problem. "I like helping the younger kids, I help them with reading and math and science," he says.

Sara Deschenes and Megan

(See Laguna School, page 8B)

(Continued from page 5B)

Hess, both 9 and both in their first year at Laguna, agree they like being in a school with so few students. "I like that it's little because we play together and we're all friends," says Megan.

At lunch time, the small-school dynamic is evident in the playground activity. Three boys bat a ball around the field while clusters of kids play on the brand new blacktop and clamber on the playground equipment recently

installed by Laguna parents.

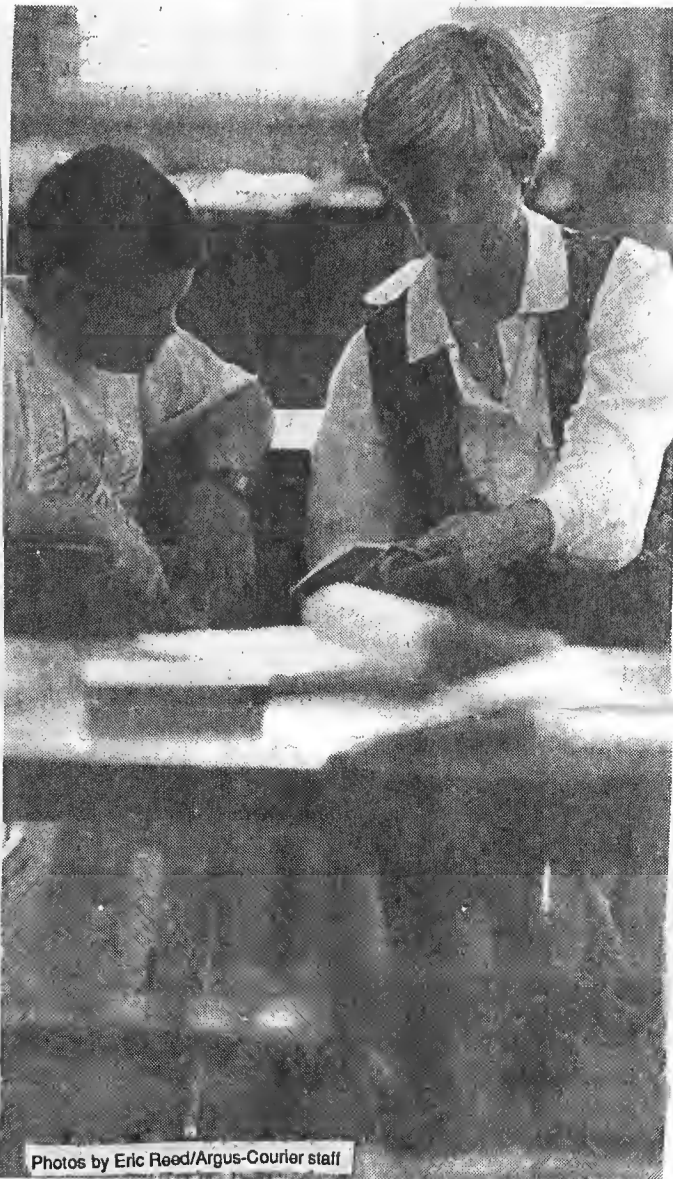
"The new playground is so cool," says Kaitlyn Johnson, 11. "It was really nice of the parents to do that."

Though the school is old, the educational approach incorporates many modern methodologies. Arithmetic lessons include Mathland manipulatives. Early reading lessons include phoneme recognition, context and content. And last year the upper grades designed and in-

stalled a Web page on the Net.

"We got a technology grant so we're going to be upgrading soon," says Brambila with a gesture to some older Macintoshes in the primary-grade room.

Laguna School, a feeder school to the Petaluma Schools District secondary schools, is about seven miles west of Petaluma on Chilen Valley Road. It welcomes interdistrict transfers. For more information, call Laguna School at 762-6051.



Photos by Eric Reed/Argus-Courier staff

Laguna School teacher and principal Lynda Balzan works on a reading assignment with Johnathan Medeiros.

2008-504-27